

CLAIM AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following listing.

Listing of Claims

- I. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying potential patent infringement, comprising:
- ~~an input device~~ means for inputting information regarding a patent;
 - a processing device ~~for processing the information regarding the patent, wherein the processing device is configured to:~~
 - identify at least one claim of the patent,
 - parse the at least one claim to identify at least one term in the at least one claim,
 - formulate a search query comprising the at least one term ~~and a foreign language translation of the at least one term,~~
 - automatically generate and transmit a natural language question to a chat room,
 - obtain information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services from the chat room in response to the question, and
 - perform a search of the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services using the search query; and
 - ~~an output device~~ means for outputting result of the search.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a laptop or notebook computer.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a database, wherein the database contains product descriptions.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a transmitter for transmitting at least one of an information request to an information source computer and a claim chart information to a user communication device.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a receiver for receiving at least one of patent information from a user communication device and a response to a request for information from an information source computer.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device ~~at least one of processes and~~ parses the text information of the patent in order to identify the claims of the patent.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the processing device is configured to utilize at least one of a word processing searching technique, a text analysis processing technique, and a semantic analysis processing technique, to identify the claims of the patent.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one claim comprises an independent claim.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the processing device is configured to parse the information contained in the independent claim to identify text information corresponding to preamble of the independent claim and to a claim limitation of the independent claim.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one term comprises a first term and a second term, and wherein the processing device is further configured to formulate the search query so that the search query imposes a proximity constraint requiring the first term to be found within a predefined proximity of the second term.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the search query further contains a synonym of the at least one term.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one term comprises a plurality of terms, and the search query comprises an accuracy constraint requiring presence of a predefined percentage of the terms.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to automatically perform the search by utilizing a meta search engine.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to perform the search on a web site associated with at least one of a manufacturer, a wholesaler, and a retailer, of the at least one of a product, products, a service, and services.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to perform the search on at least one of advertising information, marketing information, product review information, services review information, manufacturer information, and distributor information.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus ~~of claim 1, wherein the~~ for identifying potential patent infringement, comprising:

means for inputting information regarding a patent;

a processing device is configured to to:

identify at least one claim of the patent.

parse the at least one claim to identify at least one term in the at least

one claim.

formulate a search query comprising the at least one term.

automatically generate a natural language question for use in obtaining
information and transmit the natural language question to from an on-line bulletin
board. board.

obtain information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services from the on-line bulletin board in response to the question, and perform a search of the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services using the search query; and means for outputting result of the search.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to generate a claim chart in a plurality of languages.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to automatically perform the search on a publication ~~which~~ that references the patent.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to automatically ascertain at least one of an inventor and an assignee of the patent.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one of a product, products, a service, and services comprises a first product marked with at least one of a patent number and a patent pending notice.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the processing device is configured to generate a claim chart of the patent, and the claim chart contains preamble text information and text information for at least one claim limitation, and further wherein the claim chart contains

information identifying matter in an identified product or service, the matter corresponding to the preamble text information and the text information for the at least one claim limitation.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the at least one term is at least one of highlighted, underlined, and emboldened in the claim chart.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is programmed for automatic operation.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is utilized in conjunction with an optical communications network.

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for analyzing potential patent infringement, comprising:

- a receiver for receiving information regarding a patent;
- a processing device ~~for processing the information regarding the patent, wherein the processing device is configured to:~~
 - identify at least one claim of the patent,
 - parse the at least one claim to identify at least one term in the at least one claim,
 - automatically generate a natural language question,
 - transmit the natural language question to a chat room,
 - obtain information regarding at least one of a product and a service from the chat room in response to the natural language question,

formulate a search query comprising the at least one ~~term and a foreign~~
~~language translation of the at least one term,~~
generate a claim chart, and
perform a search of the information regarding at least one of a product
and a service using the query; and
a transmitter for transmitting the information contained in the claim chart to a user
communication device in order to display the claim chart.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the apparatus ~~is~~ comprises a
server.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:
a database, wherein the database contains product descriptions.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the processing device at least one of processes
and parses the text information of the patent in order to identify the claims of the patent.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the processing device is
configured to utilize at least one of a word processing searching technique, a text analysis processing
technique, and a semantic analysis processing technique, to identify the claims of the patent.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the at least one claim comprises an
independent claim.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the processing device is configured to automatically parse the information contained in the independent claim to identify text information corresponding to preamble of the independent claim and to a claim limitation of the independent claim.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the search query further contains a synonym of the at least one term.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the at least one term comprises a plurality of terms, and the search query comprises an integrity constraint requiring presence of a pre-defined percentage of the terms.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the processing device is configured to perform the search by utilizing a meta search engine.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the processing device is configured to perform the search on a web site associated with at least one of a manufacturer, a wholesaler, and a retailer of the at least one of a product and a service.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the processing device is configured to perform the search on at least one of advertising information, marketing information, product review information, services review information, manufacturer information, and distributor information.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus ~~of claim 27, wherein the~~ for analyzing potential patent infringement, comprising:

a receiver for receiving information regarding a patent;

a processing device is configured to:

identify at least one claim of the patent,

parse the at least one claim to identify at least one term in the at least

one claim,

automatically generate a natural language question for use in obtaining information from an on-line bulletin board,

transmit the natural language question to the on-line bulletin board,

obtain information regarding at least one of a product and a service

from the on-line bulletin board in response to the natural language question,

formulate a search query comprising the at least one term,

generate a claim chart, and

perform a search of the information regarding at least one of a product
and a service using the query; and
a transmitter for transmitting the information contained in the claim chart to a user
communication device in order to display the claim chart.

43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, 42, wherein the processing device is configured to generate the claim chart in a plurality of languages.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, 42, wherein the processing device is configured to automatically perform the search on a publication ~~which~~ that references the patent.

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, 42, wherein the processing device is configured to automatically ascertain at least one of an inventor and an assignee of the patent.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, 42, wherein the at least one of a product and a service comprises a first product marked with at least one of a patent number and a patent pending notice.

47. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, 42, wherein the claim chart contains at least one of preamble text information and text information for at least one claim limitation, and further wherein the claim chart contains information regarding whether an identified product or service contains features of at least one of a claim preamble of the patent and a claim limitation of the patent, literally or under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein the at least one term is at least one of highlighted, underlined, and emboldened in the claim chart.

49. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~27~~, 42, wherein the apparatus is programmed for automatic operation.

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~27~~, 42, wherein the apparatus is utilized in conjunction with an RF signal communications network.

51. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing potential patent infringement, comprising:

inputting information regarding a patent into a processing device;

processing the information regarding the patent with the processing device;

identifying a claim of the patent;

parsing the claim to identify at least one term in the claim;

formulating a search query containing the at least one ~~term and a foreign language translation of the at least one term~~;

automatically generating a natural language question for use in obtaining information from a chat room or an on-line bulletin board;

transmitting the natural language question to the chat room or the on-line bulletin board;

in response to the question, obtaining information regarding at least one of a product,

products, a service, and services;

searching the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services using the query;

generating claim chart information containing at least some of the information regarding the at least one of a product, products, a service, and services; and

outputting the claim chart information.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the method is performed with a laptop or notebook computer.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching a database.

54. (Original) The method of claim 51, further comprising:

transmitting at least one of an information request to an information source computer and the claim chart information to a user communication device.

55. (Original) The method of claim 51, further comprising:

receiving at least one of patent information from a user communication device and a response to a request for information from an information source computer.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of identifying comprises:

parsing the text information of the patent in order to identify the claims of the patent.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the step of identifying comprises utilizing method ~~utilizes~~ at least one of a word processing searching technique, a text analysis processing technique, and a semantic analysis processing technique, ~~to identify the claims of the patent.~~

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the ~~at least one~~ claim is an independent claim.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:
parsing the information contained in the independent claim to identify text information corresponding to claim preamble of the independent claim and to at least one claim limitation of the independent claim.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the search query further contains a synonym of the at least one term.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the at least one term comprises a plurality of terms, and the search query comprises an accuracy constraint requiring presence of a pre-defined percentage of the number of the terms.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of searching comprises:
utilizing a meta search engine.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching a web site associated with at least one of a manufacturer, a wholesaler, and a retailer of the at least one of a product, products, a service, and services.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching product review information.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of generating claim chart information comprises:

generating the claim chart information in a plurality of languages.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the step of searching comprises:
automatically searching a publication ~~which~~ that references the patent.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
automatically ascertaining at least one of an inventor and an assignee of the patent.
72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein:
the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services
is marked with at least one of a patent number and a patent pending notice.
73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the claim chart information contains
at least one of preamble text information and text information for at least one claim limitation, and
further wherein the claim chart information contains information regarding whether an identified
product or service contains features of at least one claim limitation, literally or under the Doctrine of
Equivalents.
74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising:
causing the at least one term in the claim chart information to be at least one of
highlighted, underlined, and emboldened.
75. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the method is performed automatically.
76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the method is performed in
conjunction with a wireless communication network.

77. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for analyzing potential patent infringement, comprising:

receiving information regarding a patent;

processing the information regarding the patent;

identifying a claim of the patent;

formulating a search query containing terms in the claim and a foreign language translation of at least one of the terms;

automatically generating a natural language question for use in obtaining information from a chat room or an on-line bulletin board;

transmitting the natural language question to the chat room or the on-line bulletin board;

in response to the question, obtaining information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services from the chat room or the on-line bulletin board;

searching the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services using the query;

generating claim chart information containing at least some of the information regarding the at least one of a product, products, a service, and services; and

transmitting the claim chart information to a user communication device in order to display the claim chart information to a user.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the method is performed with a server.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching a database.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of identifying comprises:
parsing the text information of the patent in order to identify the claims of the patent.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of identifying comprises
automatically using at least one of a word processing searching technique, a text analysis processing
technique, and a semantic analysis processing technique, to identify the claims of the patent.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the claim is an independent claim.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising:
parsing the information contained in the independent claim to identify preamble of
the independent claim and at least one claim limitation of the independent claim.

84. (Cancelled)

85. (Cancelled)

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the search query further contains a synonym for the at least one of the terms.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the search query comprises an accuracy constraint requiring presence of a pre-defined percentage of the number of the terms of the plurality of terms.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services, by utilizing a meta search engine.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching a web site associated with at least one of a manufacturer, a wholesaler, and a retailer of the at least one of a product, products, a service, and services.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of searching comprises:
searching at least one of advertising information, marketing information, product review information, services review information, manufacturer information, and distributor information.

92. (Cancelled)

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of generating claim chart information comprises:

generating the claim chart information in a plurality of languages.

94. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 77, wherein the step of searching comprises:

automatically searching a publication ~~which~~ that references the patent.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, further comprising:

automatically ascertaining at least one of an inventor and an assignee of the patent.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein:

the information regarding at least one of a product, products, a service, and services is marked with at least one of a patent number and a patent pending notice.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the claim chart information contains at least one of preamble text information and text information for at least one claim limitation, and further wherein the claim chart information contains information regarding whether an identified product or service contains features of at least one claim limitation, literally or under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 97, further comprising:

causing the at least one of the terms in the claim chart information to be at least one of highlighted, underlined, and emboldened.

99. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the method is performed automatically.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the method is performed in conjunction with a satellite communications network.